

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY

PLEASE PASS LONDON AND EEC BRUSSELS PRIORITY IF DEPT HAS
NO OBJECTION

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, UK

SUBJECT: CHONA CRITICIZES CALLAGHAN AND BRITISH FOR FLABBINESS
ON ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S POLITICAL ADVISOR, MARK CHONA, IN CONVERSATION AT STATE HOUSE DEC 20, TOLD ME HE THOUGHT USG SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS OF UNFORTUNATE BRITISH ATTITUDE ON ANGOLA FOLLTWINING A MEETING HE HAD IN LONDON WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN EN ROUTE BACK FROM THE CIEC MEETING WHICH HE ATTENDED WITH FONMIN BANDA IN PARIS LAST WEEK. CHONA HOPED SECRETARY KISSINGER COULD PERSUADE CALLAGHAN TO TAKE FIRMER STAND AGAINST SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION AS PART OF OUR AGREED POLICY FOR CLOSE COLLABORATION ON DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE PRIOR TO OAU MEETING ON ANGOLA IN JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHONA SAID HE SOUGHT TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DAVID ENNALS (WHO RECENTLY IN LUSAKA), BUT WHEN CALLAGHAN HEARD OF THIS HE ASKED CHONA TO CALL ON HIM. CALLAGHAN OPENED THE MEETING BY SAYING HE THOUGHT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS IN A REAL FIX WITH CONGRESS OVER ANGOLA. HE ASKED CHONA IF HE THOUGHT IT WAS RIGHT FOR THE AMERICANS TO BE POURING IN HELP INTO ANGOLA. CHONA TURNED THE
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QUESTION AROUND BY ASKING CALLAGHAN IF HE THOUGHT IT WAS RIGHT

FOR THE SOVIETS TO BE POURING ARMS IN AND SPONSORING CUBAN TROOP INPUTS. WITH THAT REJOINDER, CHONA SAID THE BRITISH WERE ABLE TO ANSWER THEIR OWN QUESTION THEMSELVES. HE SAID CALLAGHAN THEN WANTED TO KNOW IF THE ZAMBIANS REALLY THOUGHT MPLA WOULD BECOME A PUPPET BY ACCEPTING HELP FROM THE RUSSIANS.

3. CHONA GAVE HIS VIEW THAT ANGOLA WAS "AFRICA'S CZECHOSLAVAKIA." HE SAID ZAMBIAN FAVORED PEACE IN ANGOLA. HE DESCRIBED SOVIET HELP TO ONE POLITICAL PARTY AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND HE CALLED UPON CALLAGHAN TO CONSIDER A BRITISH INITIATIVE THROUGH THE EEC. DID CALLAGHAN FEEL THE NINE COULD AGREE ON AT LEAST TWO POINTS CONCERNING PEACE IN ANGOLA: A CEASE FIRE AND A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY? CALLAGHAN REGARDED THE IDEA AS GOOD BUT ON SECOND THOUGHT BELIEVED IT MIGHT NOT CARRY BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS. ALSO CALLAGHAN WAS UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT APPROACHING THE FRENCH FOR ONE.

4. CHONA (WHO IS JUST ABOUT AS ANTI-COLONIAL AND ANTI-BRITISH AS THEY COME IN ZAMBIA) SAID HIS IMPRESSION OF THE BRITISH ATTITUDE ON ANGOLA AS A RESULT OF THIS AIMLESS CONVERSATION WAS ONE OF A "FINISHED PEOPLE WITH FEW NEW IDEAS OR ANSWERS," STRADDLING THE FENCE AND HEDGING THEIR BETS ON ALL THREE POLITICAL LEADERS IN ANGOLA, NEITHER CONVINCED NOR CERTAIN WHO WILL COME OUT ON TOP. ON MORE PERSONAL VEIN CHONA THOUGHT ONE REASON FOR FLABBY BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY ON ANGOLA WAS PERSONAL AMBITION OF CALLAGHAN WHO IS SAID TO WANT WILSON'S JOB AS PRIME MINISTER.

5. I WONDERED ALOUD WHY CHONA WAS TELLING ME ALL THIS ABOUT THE BRITISH; DIDN'T HE KNOW THE SECRETARY AND MR. CALLAGHAN WERE THE BEST OF FRIENDS? CHONA SAID HE DID AND IT WAS FOR THIS VERY REASON THAT HE FELT THE SECRETARY SHOULD KNOW HOW HE SIZED UP THE BRITISH AT THIS TIME WHEN ALL POSSIBLE HELP, ESPECIALLY FROM FRIENDS, WAS NECESSARY TO RESIST THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. IN FACT, HE HOPED THE SECRETARY--IF HE HAD NOT ALREADY DONE SO--MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO PRESS HIS FRIEND CALLAGHAN SO THE BRITISH WOULD TAKE A FIRMER AND MORE OPEN STAND.

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